RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 4th March, 1987/

13 Phalguna, 1908 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Conference of Education Ministers of States to Consider the New Education Policy

*101. DR. SHRIMATI SAROJINI MAHISHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of Educations Minister of various States was convened recently for the consideration of the New Education Policy; and

(b) whether any concrete decisions were taken at the conference; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) A Conference of State Education Minister was held at New Delhi on February 14, 1987. The Conference finalised the guidelines of implementation in respect of schemes of Operation Blackboard, Non-formal Education, Teacher Training and establishment of District Institutes of Education and Training. It was decided that the scheme of Operation Blackboard will cover 20 per cent of CD Blocks and Municipal Wards during 1987-88. The Conference also discussed problems of Educational Development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and educationally backward minorities to secure effective implementation of schemes for this purpose.

DR. (SHRIMATI SAROJINI MAHISHI) Mr. Chairman, Sir, since independence we have been shouting from the roof-tops that primary education shall be free and compulsory. But it is neither free nor compulsory. Even primary education has become very costly. As far as buildings in the rural areas are concrened, there are no buildings at all. One teacher looks after four classrooms and classes are held in temples. I would like to know what efforts are being made in this direction.

I would also like to know whether any effort has been made by the Government to look into the utilisation of funds—whether these funds have been properly utilised or not In many places school buildings are just not the verge of falling down and children are made to sit in those buildings. I am not speaking about one State or the other, but this is the state of affairs in almost all the States of the country. The Minister has said that the State Education Ministers Conference has finalised the guidelines of imlementation in respect of schemes of Operation Blackboard and non-traditional education. But I would like to know whether these schemes were not tried eariler. What is the difference between the literacy programme that was there earlier and an effort that was made to improve the primary education earlier which has not been successful and the present policy that is tried to be followed now?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, in regard to what was done previously the best information would be available only from the State Governments, because they were in charge. But for the first time in pursuance of the new policy, the Central Government has promised in the policy and has decided to take a major responsibility a major share of responsibility in all the main programmes at the school level, at the higher level,at IIT's level and at other levels. In pursuance as promised in the policy, Operation Blackboard symbolically called in those terms, because it essentially conits a massive school improvement programme, in-

cluding buildings, including teachers, including teaching aids, etc., has been taken up. The State Education Ministers discussed these in great detail and came to the conclsion that within the means available and within the infrastructure and capacity available at the moment, we will be able to cover 20 per cent of the schools in one year. It is going to be a very masive programme. I will come with the details when the programme is finalised further in consultations with the State Governments. They are finalising the programme. Although we wanted to take three or four issues on one day, it so happende that since we went into a great detail we could only complete Operation Blackboard. The next meeting which we are going to call sometime in April or so—according to the convenience of the State Education Ministers will be concentrating its attention on vocationalisation alone which, as Members know, has been one of the casualties and one of the programmes which has really not taken off the ground. We would like to concentrate on that item of policy. By the time the demands come up before Parliament when some discussion is allowed here, I would be in position to come to this House with greater details.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: We have all the while been throwing the responsibility and the blame on the State Governments. A lot of responsibility rests on the Central Government. I know that this subject has been put in the Concurrent List in 1975-76. Even then, the Central Government has got to take the responsibility to see that the integrity and the other things are maintained and efforts are made to develop national integration in the entire contry. I would like to say the standard of education has gone down and it has been reflected again in the aministration in the entire country. I would like to know what exactly are the steps that are being taken to develop the idea that every child should feel that he is an Indian, that he belongs to Indian as a whole, not merely to this State or that State. In this process I would like to know what reforms have been carried out in the formulation of text-books, in the medium of instruction and in such other things so that every child can feel that he is an Indian, besides learning the particular language of his own State.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: This also is a very important postulate of the New Policy. The core curriculm for the first time has been conceived of as something which apples to the whole of India. The core curriculum contains as its very important ingredients the fostering of nationhood, the fostering of certain values and whatever the honourable Member has referred to. But I do not think I will be in a position to give all the details in the course of a Question Hour. I can certainly give the details of each of the programmes that are being undertaken. NCERT is there very much in this programme. We are reviewing the history of the freedom struggle, for instance. That has now formed an important part of the curriculum. We are reviewing in what manner that is being incorporated in the curriculum. There have been certain differences of opinion but they have been ironed out. I am glad to say that on each of these items there has been considerable progress which I will be able to report on any later occasion.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : क्या माननीय शिक्षा मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जितनी भी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स के मिनिस्टर्स ने इसमें पार्टिसिपेट किया है, क्या उनमें किन्हीं गवर्नमेंट्स का इसमें कोई मतभेद था ? यदि मतभेद था तो किन इसूज पर था ? आपने कहा है कि डिस्ट्रिक्ट आफ एजूकेशन एण्ड ट्रेनिंग शुरू करेंगे । मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि आप कितने दिनों में इस प्रकार के डिस्टिटयट

प्रत्येक जिले में स्थापित कर देंगे ? आप नवोदय स्कूल बना रहे हैं। प्रत्येक नवोदय स्कूल पर गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया और स्टेट गवर्नमेंट का क्या-क्या खर्च होगा ?

श्री पी० वी० नरसिंह राव : जहां तक मतभेद का सवाल है, मतभेद की जो स्टेज थी वह तो बहुत पीछे रह गई है, उससे हम काफी आगे निकल चुके हैं। किसी बात पर कोई मतभेद हमें नजर नहीं आया, यह खुशी की बात है। जहां तक डी० आई० ई० टी० का सवाल है, वह दिनों की बात नहीं है। कम से कम महीनों उसमें लग जाएंगे। एक जिले में हम एक ही कायम करना चाहते हैं। वैसे दो तीन भी हो सकते हैं। उनमें से एक को चुन कर हम सारी व्यवस्था करने की आशा करते हैं। जो स्टेन्डर्ड तरीका है, वह होना चाहिए। उसमें समय लगेगा। हमने राज्य सरकारों को कहा है कि एक-एक जिले में एक एक चुन लें और पूरा वर्क-आउट कर लें। उनके लिए टास्क फोर्स वहां कायम करें। फिर हमको रिपोर्ट करें। इसमें कुछ समय लेगा। मैं समझता हूं कि एक साल के अन्दर, आने वाले आर्थिक वर्ष के अन्दर, हम उसमें काफी प्रगति पर सकते हैं। जहां तक नवोदय स्कूलों के खर्चे का सवाल है, उसका सारा खर्चा हम करते हैं। हम राज्य सरकारों से अपेक्षा करते हैं कि मुफ्त में हमें जमीन दें और एक दो साल के लिए जो हमारा काम हो सके, इतनी बिल्डिंग, एकोमोडेशन दें। क्योंकि हम आसमान के नीचे स्कूल नहीं शुरू कर सकते हैं। वहां पर हमारा प्रोग्राम बिल्डिंग बनाने का है। लेकिन इसमें थोड़ा समय लगेगा। हम डिजाइन वगैरह तैयार कर रहे हैं। एक दो साल तक ये वहां पर चल सकें, इतनी एकोमोडेशन वे हमें दे सकें तो हम उस जिले में स्कूल खोलेंगे।

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Mr. Chairman, the House is aware of the fact that a report of Parliament laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on July 25 1967 has clearly stated that at the secondary stage regional language should alone be the medium of instruction, In pursuance of those recommendations. Parliament had passed a resolution unanimously in 1968 and in that resolution itself it had been clearly stated that the regional languages already used as media of instruction at the primary and secondary stage should be urgently adopted at the university stage also. Sir, contrary to this resolution of Parliament, Hindi and English alone have been accepted as the media of instruction in the Navodaya Schools and the regional languages have not been accepted as the media of instruction in the Navodaya Schools.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, the main question concerns the Conference of the Education Ministers...

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Yes, Yes. I am going to that.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: ....and the decisions arrived at in that Conference.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Yes, I am coming to that; I am coming to that only (*Interruptions*). Now, this policy of the Government on medium of instruction was opposed by some of the State Ministers in the Conference recently held in Delhi. I would like to know why this Government is acting against its own policy. I would also like to know how many States have opposed in that Conference the policy of the Centre on Medium of instruction. Will the Government come forward to accommodate the regional languages also to be used as the media of instruction in addition to English?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I really do not know. I have only been asked as to what happened at this Conference, what the decisions were that were taken, and what the consensus was. I have given all the details. In fact, I have confined myself to

only one point because that was the only point which was fully considered at that Conference.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Sir I seek your protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just wait. I will put the question for you. The point that the honourable Member wants to know is this: Did any of the State Ministers objected in the Conference to the language policy as detailed by you and was there any discussion on that?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: There was no discussion on that. I am rather hesitant to say about what generally happens at such conferences. Speeches are read. But actually we zero in on one, two or three aspects and only from the discussions on those points we come to certain conclusions which I have already given to the House. Now, if some objections or some opinions were contained in the speeches individually made, well, that did not come up for discussion directly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is right. Yes, Mr. Lakshmanna.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question is very concrete because he wants only concrete things. Sir, the Conference came to the conclusion that the "Operation Blackboard" programme will be the major programme and it will cover about twenty per cent of the C.D. blocks and municipal wards. Now, Sir, my quesion is in three parts. The first part of my question is this: What is the amount that has been allocated for the "Operation Blackboard" programme in the current year's Budget? Part (b): Approximately how many schools are there in twenty per cent of the C.D. blocks and municipal wards? Part (c): What will be the per capita expenditure expected out of the amount that has been allocated by you for the current year on each of these schools?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: About Rs. 100 crores, if I remember right, is the amount allotted specifically for the "Operation Blackboard" programme. Certain calculations have been made and it has been determined that about fifty thousand to sixty thousand rupees would be needed only for the building. The State Governments have been requested to prepare the lists of areas, of these blocks and wards, where they would like this twenty per cent to be covered. They have not yet given us. But they will give us in a few days' time or in a few weeks' time. It is only twenty per cent of the blocks which are to be covered. A calculation has been made on the basis of which only this figure of 20 per cent was arrived at and it is not done in the air. Actually, it was the conclusion that within the amount available it would be possible for us to complete twenty per cent of the blocks. We wanted to go even beyond 20 per cent. But it was found that it might be difficult. But, at the same time, we are going to get some money from the NREP and RLEGP from the Rural Development Department and the money would be specifically spent on school buildings. These have been tied up from different sources and I do not think that there will be any difficulty so far as this twenty per cent is concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Gurupadaswamy.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Not Mr. Gopalsamy?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether the educational institutions coming under minority religious denominations, their role, their character and their policies in respect of recruitment of teachers and admission of students and their curricula were discussed at this Conference. And since this is an All-India Education Conference and the Government has evolved a comprehensive education policy, don't you

think that this is a very important thing that religious institutions which run educational institutions should not be a law unto themselves?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: So far as importance is concerned, no one has two opinions about it. All these are important. But it so happens that at that conference we zeroed in on one subject and that was the subject which has received pre-eminence, at that conference, in the policy. That is the base of the pyramid. We started from there. The whole day we discussed and we came to the conclusion that 20 per cent of the schools from the blocks can be covered. Then we discussed about vocationalisation, but we came to the conclusion that we cannot discuss it properly, we will have to set apart a full meeting for that. So it is not that a final decision can be taken together on all subjects. We have to be in continuous and constant consultation with the State Education Ministers. The point suggested by the hon. Member also is important, and we will be considering it an some future occasion.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, the hon. Minister stated something about the discussion that was held in the last Education Ministers' Conference. But perhaps that is not the complete thing. The hon. Minister has stated repeatedly that one demand was raised and it was also raised in the N.D.C. about the restoration of education from the Concurrent List to the State List. I would like to know whether the same demand was repeated in the last Education Ministers' Conference and whether the Government is going to reconsider this demand.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I am not going beyond what was decided in Parliament and what was decided in the N.D.C.

SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Mr. Chairman, we are glad to know that the Conference of the State Ministers on Education, along with the Union Ministry, had discussed one subject. But the hon. Minister has informed us that he is convening soon another conference to discuss the various aspects of education. I would like to know whether in the next meeting the Government would also discuss the question of teachers, about the quality of teachers, being appointed in different schools. As it is, the Minister of Human Resource Development is well acquainted with the north-eastern region. Except Assam, in most of the States the schools run are by private agencies where low class teachers are appointed; people who do not get employment elsewhere are appointed as teachers and, therefore, the quality of students becomes very, very bad. Even if 10 per cent are taken over by the State Governments, to provincialise them...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up. Please conclude.

SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: I would like to know whether this question of appointing teachers by giving sufficient grant to private schools by the Government would be taken up.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, the discussion on the District Institute of Education and Training adequately covers the appointment of teachers and training to be given to teachers, both in-service and pre-service. As I said, the matter is being worked out; details are being worked out by the State Governments and I am sure, whether it is the north-east or north-west, everywhere in the country this pattern is going to come into force, since all the State Governments have accepted it. But it will take time before we are able to look into all these deficiencies in teacher training and teacher selection. Procedures are so varied from State to State. Education has fallen into different boxes in different States. So, depending upon the variety of managements and other procedures we will have to go step by step and

at some point of time bring some commonness in the entire process.

Tax on Domestic Air Travellers

*102. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:†
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to tax domestic air travellers to build a fund for modernisation of airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this is one of the recommendations of the Tata Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to levy passenger service fee at the rate of Rs. 10 per head on all embarking domestic passengers.

(c) Yes, Sir.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूं कि सारे एयर पोर्ट्स के माडर्नाइज करने में कितना एस्टीमेटेड कास्ट है और यह 10 रु० प्रति पैसेंजर जो आयेगा उससे कितनी अनुमानित रकम आने वाली है ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, the National Airport Authority has come about six months ago. We are not getting any budgetary support from the Government of India and everything has to be generated from our own resources. We had formulated a proposal for introduction of passenger service fee of Rs. 10 per head on all the embarking domestic passengers. The International Airports Authority is also proposing to introduce passenger service fee of Rs. 10 per domestic passenger. Both these facilities have been approved in principle and the modalities are being worked out. The International Airports Authority estimates to collect Rs. 4 crores per annum and the National Airport Authority which is looking after all the national airports expects to collect Rs. 4.31 crores through passenger service fee from embarking domestic passengers.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, एस्टीमेटेड कास्ट क्या होगी इसके विषय में मंत्री जी ने नहीं कहा इसलिए मैं आप पर ही छोड़ देता हूं कि उनको क्या कहना चाहिए ? मेरा दूसरा सप्लीमेंटरी प्रश्न यह है कि माडरनाइजेशन कहां से विलीन होगा, जो कम्परेटिवली फर्निश्ड है उस एयरपोर्ट से या जो सबसे ज्यादा बैकवार्ड है उससे? ये कहां से शुरू करेंगे ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: We have taken up development plans in the country. When we talk of modernisation, we are going to do modernisation of A.T.C. facilities in Bombay and Delhi which are being looked after by the National Airport Authority. Then we are going to do the development of Port Blair Airport for Airbus operation. We are going to undertake the construction of an airport in Jammu and Kashmir. We are going to develop new airports in the North-eastern region at Gangtok, Assam and Lungai in Mizoram. Gang-Itanagar, Tura in Meghalaya, Miza in Assam and Lungai in Mizoram. Gangtok is in Sikkim and Itanagar is in Arunachal Pradesh. Then there is the modernisation of Civil Aviation Training Centre at Allahabad.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has very kindly told us about modernisation. But is he aware that several of the airports including Safdarjung and Indira Gandhi International Airport have very poor maintenance? I would like to know whether with this fund that is being collected, which I think is quite a heavy fund

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chaturanan Mishra